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# Archives of Appalachia NEWSLETTER

VOL. V., NO. 3



WINTER 1983

## TVA IN EAST TENNESSEE: THE EARLY YEARS

The Archives of Appalachia, B. Carroll Reece Museum and the Institute for Appalachian Affairs are sponsoring three events on the history of the Tennessee Valley Authority to be held in January. As TVA celebrates its 50th anniversary, it is an appropriate time to look back at the early years and the impact the coming of TVA had on East Tennessee.

All three events will be held in the Reece Museum at East Tennessee State University.

The first event, an exhibit from the Archives of TVA entitled "Unique TVA Documents," will be on display January 3-February 8, 1984. Included among the documents are the original Tennessee Valley Authority Act, the pen used by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in signing the act, correspondence from Roosevelt to Arthur E. Morgan and Harcourt A. Morgan, cartoons of the era, photographs of the area later covered by Norris Dam, and correspondence between presidents Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower and Kennedy and TVA officials.

The second event, scheduled January 30, will be three showings of Ross Spears' feature-length documentary on the history of TVA, "The Electric Valley." A Johnson Citian, Spears was awarded a blue ribbon at the American Film Festival for his earlier documentary on James Agee, a film nominated for an Academy Award. This will be the first public showing of "The Electric Valley" in this area since it was previewed in November. Times for the showing will be 11:15 a. m., and 3:15 p. m., and 7:15 p. m..

On January 31, the third event will be a panel discussion, entitled "Impact of the Early Years," held at 7:30 p. m. in the Reece Museum, preceded by a reception at 6:30 p. m.. Moderator for the panel will be Mark Winter, oral historian for TVA. Other participants on the panel will be Ray Pope, who worked on the early projects; Dan Crowe, Butler, Tennessee, a Johnson county town relocated by TVA construction; and Dr. Elizabeth McMahan, who has studied and written about the impact of TVA on the area.

All events are free and open to the public. We hope you will help us publicize them by telling your friends, announcing them to your clubs, and especially by marking your calendars so you can come by yourself.

## TVA RETROSPECTIVE

The Archives of Appalachia will have four exhibits during January, all coordinated with public events on the early history of TVA. There will be an exhibit on research projects on TVA by ETSU faculty and students; an exhibit featuring "The Electric Valley"; an exhibit on Old Butler; and an exhibit of resources on TVA in the Archives of Appalachia. The exhibits will be on the first floor of the Sherrod library.



## RICHARD CHASE VISITS ETSU CAMPUS

The Archives, the B. Carroll Reece Museum, and the Institute for Appalachian Affairs entertained folklorist Richard Chase during his three-day visit to the ETSU campus in November. Chase, and active folklore collector for over 60 years, has won awards for his books Jack Tales, Grandfather Tales and American Folk Tales and Songs. He is the only living author on the Great Books Foundation junior list.

Chase spoke to members of several university classes and the public in the Pioneer Room of the Reece Museum and to classes at Science Hill High School in Johnson City. His changes in vocal pitch and dialect molded the characters from his tales. The movements of his bushy eyebrows, perched over twinkling eyes, held the attention of the audience who sat quietly in order not to miss the next line.

Chase also recorded one of his tales, along with his views of Appalachian storytelling traditions, in an interview for OMNI, a television series produced at ETSU and distributed through the state public television network. A copy of the program is now in the Archives.



Standing left to right: Helen Roseberry, John Williams, Richard Blaustein, Ellen Garrison, Tom Burton; seated: Richard Chase & Elaine Cloud-Goller



Chase: storytelling

### FROM THE DIRECTOR

"Cooperation" (along with "communication" and "facilitation") is one of the most overworked words in use today. Yet there is no better word to summarize this issue of the newsletter. As a small organization, the Archives of Appalachia can meet its goals only through cooperation with other agencies.

A particularly close relationship between the archives, the Institute for Appalachian Affairs and the B. Carroll Reece Museum at ETSU enables the university to serve the community of which we are a part by undertaking public programs highlighting our regional heritage. We are pleased to have been able to work with the institute and museum to make possible a visit by noted folklorist Richard Chase this fall. Not only did hundreds



of local residents hear Chase in person, but television viewers throughout the state enjoyed his presentation on OMNI, another public service of ETSU.

In January, the three agencies will again join forces to examine the early impact of the Tennessee Valley Authority in upper East Tennessee. A museum exhibit, a film showing and a panel discussion are only part of this event. This project will also bring TVA oral historian Mark Winter to campus to work with classes and to speak to local civic clubs about the archival resources available through TVA.

The university's responsibility is regional and the Appalachian Consortium archives grant project described elsewhere is only one example of our regional commitment. Five other faculty members and I will participate in the Appalachian Studies Conference in March, and on April 14th the Institute (in cooperation with the University Center program committee) will sponsor the third annual Home Folks Festival featuring local and regional performers, artists and craftspeople.

The archives is proud to be part of the university's cooperative effort to serve our region. We appreciate the support we receive from campus and community in our effort to document the social, political, cultural and economic history of Appalachia. Join us January 30-31 as we begin a new year of cooperative service to Appalachia.

## INSTITUTE FOR APPALACHIAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR APPOINTED

Dr. Richard Blaustein, sociology and anthropology, has been selected as the new director of the Institute for Appalachian Affairs. He received his B.A. degree from Brooklyn College of the City University of New York, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Indiana University, Folklore Institute, Bloomington. Blaustein is on the board of directors of the Appalachian Consortium and is president-elect of the Tennessee Folklore Society. He was the recipient of the Tennessee Arts Commission and state legislative individual award of merit in September 1982.

Among the major goals and objectives of the Institute for Appalachian Affairs are (1) support community outreach activities such as media presentations, conferences, lectures, workshops, exhibits and festivals; (2) serve as a clearinghouse for individuals and organizations actively involved in regional projects and programs; and (3) encourage the development of teaching and research activities directly related to regional issues and concerns.

## APPALACHIAN CONSORTIUM RECEIVES ARCHIVES GRANT

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission has awarded \$25,599 to the Appalachian Consortium for a year-long study of archives and manuscripts repositories in south central Appalachia. The study, similar to state needs assessment grants previously funded by the commission, will survey repositories in seven states to inventory their holdings and to provide information on regional needs for professional training and cooperative projects.

At the end of the grant, the Consortium will distribute a guide to manuscripts in Appalachia and conduct a workshop to meet some of the

needs documented by the survey. Survey data will also provide a basis for planning future Consortium services to archivists.

Dr. Ellen Garrison of the Archives of Appalachia will serve as project director. The project coordinator (yet to be named) will also be based at ETSU. Garrison served as a member of the Georgia needs assessment grant manuscripts task force and chaired the committee which designed the questionnaire used in that state.

This project, like the Georgia study, will utilize a microcomputer to analyze survey data and print the directory.

## NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

On Dec. 2-3, Tusculum College and the Tennessee Community Heritage Project sponsored a workshop for social studies teachers focusing on the use of community heritage resources in the classroom. The Scholar-in-residence John R. Williams served as local coordinator for the workshop. Director Ellen Garrison spoke on the resources available in the Archives for classroom use.

From August to December, the staff made 26 slide tape presentations to 1423 persons on campus or in the local community. "Johnson City Album" was shown Nov. 9 to an audience of 297 at a meeting of the Johnson City Washington County Chamber of Commerce.

Director Ellen Garrison attended the Society of American Archivists meeting in Minneapolis Oct. 4-7. At the meeting she was appointed to the Waldo Gifford Leland prize committee and the editorial committee for the College and University Archives Manual, scheduled to be published by the society in 1985. Garrison has also attended several meetings of the Appalachian Studies program committee and spoke to a workshop sponsored by the Tellissippi Genealogical Society at Clinton, Tennessee.

At the Oct. 4 meeting of the Watauga Association of Genealogists, Mildred Kozsuch made a speech entitled "The Washington County Court Records in the Archives of Appalachia."

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

### ARCHIVES OF APPALACHIA

ALTRUSA CLUB RECORDS. 1964-1982. 5 l.f. Constitution and by-laws; minutes; correspondence; programs; financial records; scrapbooks; awards; banner; yearbooks; and project reports of the Altrusa Club of Johnson City, TN. 24 slides. International Altrusan, 1965-1982. Deposited by Mrs. A. L. Haberstroff and Mrs. Oria Keys, Johnson City, TN.

BAXTER, FRANKLIN P. PAPERS. 1782-1938. 1 l.f. (in part copies). Foreign and American newspapers; newsclippings; charter of Johnson City Citizens bank; land records and wills; miscellaneous catalogs and almanacs. Transferred from the B. Carroll Reece museum.

CARGILLE, CHARLES PHOTOGRAPHS. 1920, 1923. 2 items. Oversize composite photographs of the 1920 and 1923 senior classes of East Tennessee State Normal School. Transferred from the B. Carroll Reece museum.

CHASE, RICHARD (b. 1904) PAPERS. ca. 1950-1970's. 1 l.f. Audio and video recordings and motion pictures of/by Richard Chase, folklorist and storyteller. Manuscript script, "Get Up and Bar the Door!" Printed script, "Magnolia's Man" by Gertrude Wilson Coffine. Gift of Richard Chase, Huntsville, Alabama.

"COUNTRY ROOTS" RADIO SERIES RECORDS. 1983. 1 l.f. Audio tapes and program notes of radio programs on the early history of country music produced by Richard Gordon for WETS-FM. Gift of Richard Gordon, Johnson City, TN.

FORK MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH AUDIO TAPE. 1981-1982. 1 item. Old religious songs performed by Fork Mountain Baptist church, Roan Mountain, TN. Gift of E. Harold Burleson, Johnson City, TN.

MATHES, CHARLES HODGE (1879-1951) MEMORIAL LETTERS. 1 volume. Letters to Mrs. Hodge Mathes from her husband's students who were members of the first freshman high school class of East Tennessee State Normal School. Transferred from Sherrod Library.

MURRAY FAMILY PAPERS. ca. 1800-1947. 3 l.f. Legal and land records; correspondence; medical account books; genealogies; religious notes; diplomas; clippings; and other papers of the Murray family of Monroe and Washington counties, TN. Manuscript, "The Millroys of Cherokee." Transferred from the B. Carroll Reece museum.

SLIMP, MICKEY MANTLE PAPERS. 1977. .5 l.f. (in part copies) "The Foundation of Tennessee Quakerism, 1768-1810" by Mickey M. Slimp; research notes; and copies of research materials. Gift of Mickey Mantle Slimp, Texarkana, TX.

SMITH, FRANK P. PAPERS. 1920-1947. 1 l.f. Photographs of graduating class of East Tennessee State Normal School and campus. Manuscript, "Myths or Facts: Some Questionable Episodes of the Frontier." Scattered issues, Chalk Line, Old Hickory, Buccaneer. Transferred from B. Carroll Reece museum.

TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT OF ERRORS AND APPEALS RECORDS. 1830-1835. .5 l.f. Cases appealed from Washington, Greene, Hawkins, Sullivan and Jefferson counties. Removed from Washington County Court Records.

WINSTON, NATHANIEL TAYLOR PAPERS. 1781-1968. 1 l.f. (in part copies) Correspondence; business papers; broadsides; catalogs; and other papers of the Winston family of Louisa county, VA; and the Taylor family of Carter and Washington counties, TN. Transferred from B. Carroll Reece museum.

## UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

ALPHA LAMBDA DELTA RECORDS. 1965-1982. 1 l.f. Constitution; correspondence; membership lists; newsletters; programs; initiation service; handbook for faculty advisor; and 2 5 x 7 photographs of members. Deposited by Dr. Helen Hollingsworth, Johnson City, TN.

ASSOCIATE DEAN OF ARTS AND SCIENCES RECORDS. 1978-1979. 3 l.f. Applications for faculty positions; bulletins; memoranda; correspondence; curriculum proposals; and minutes of curriculum committee of associate dean Evelyn Powers. Restricted. Transferred from the Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences.

DEAN OF ARTS AND SCIENCES RECORDS. 1962-1978. 48 l.f. Correspondence, reports and other administrative records pertaining to programs, personnel, enrollment and budgets of dean George N. Dove. Minutes of the Chairman's Council and all standing university committees; department load reports, 1972-1977; and graduate assistant records. Restricted. Transferred from the Office of the Dean of Arts and Science.

MEN'S COLLOQUIUM RECORDS. 1952-1978. .5 l.f. Correspondence; statement of purpose; memoranda; notices of meetings; membership lists; and manuscript "Twenty Years of Talk." Deposited by Dr. Stephen White, Johnson City, TN.

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES RECORDS. 1970-1981. 1 l.f. Correspondence; reports; minutes; and other administrative records of deans Arthur DeRosier and Elizabeth L. McMahan. Transferred from the School of Graduate Studies.

### SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Watauga Historical Association, whose records are housed in the Archives of Appalachia, has given a first edition of KINGS MOUNTAIN AND ITS HEROES by Lyman Draper. We appreciate the continued support and interest of this local historical society.

During the last six months Ambrose and Mary Manning have donated a wealth of books, pamphlets and serials on the folklore and history of the Appalachian region. Their most recent gift is a set of the TENNESSEE FOLKLORE SOCIETY BULLETIN, 1963-1983.

THE W. M. RITTER LUMBER COMPANY FAMILY HISTORY BOOK by Dennis E. Reedy was presented to the Archives by Ken Fletcher in memory of his grandfather George Bailey Fletcher. Some of our readers may remember Mr. Fletcher and his wife Velvie Mae are featured in our slide/tape program, "Harvesting the Hardwoods." This publication greatly enhances our research material and slide/tape program depicting logging camp life in Appalachia. The photographs and oral history interviews captured by the author give a history of an era in the lives of past generations.

### BELATED SANTA CLAUS?

The xerox copying machine, placed in the Archives by the Sherrrod Library last fall, has fallen into irreversible disrepair. There are no university funds for replacement. Because we must now take all of our copying elsewhere in the library, patrons and staff alike are inconvenienced by sharing copying equipment. We are particularly concerned that irreplaceable manuscripts must now be taken from our quarters if we are to provide copies for researchers.

We ask our readers if anyone has a copying machine to donate to the archives? A small desk-top copier would be fine. We would appreciate any offer from a belated Santa Claus. This gift, like all gifts to the archives, is tax deductible.



# **TVA IN EAST TENNESSEE: The Early Years**



## **Unique TVA Documents: An Exhibit**

**January 3-  
February 8**

## **The Electric Valley: A Film**

**January 30  
11:15 a.m., 3:15 p.m.  
7:30 p.m.**

## **Impact of the Early Years: A Panel Discussion**

**January 31  
Reception, 6:30 p.m.  
Panel, 7:30 p.m.**

**All events will be presented in the B. Carroll Reece  
Museum, East Tennessee State University.**



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